firms and had already taken measures to discourage them by insisting on affidavits under the Export Entitlement Distribution Policy. The Government, has also recently stipulated that a firm should be an income tax assessee to be eligibile to apply for entitlements under the small order system.

State terrorism

1423. SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what initiatives India took in the NAM Summit at Harare to curb the State terrorism in Sri Lanka; and

(b) how many nations extended their support to our initiatives against State terrorism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) India had taken the initiative for addressing the question of international terrorism at the Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of Non-aligned Countries in New Delhi in April, 1986 which included a section on this subject in the Political Declaration. The relevant section in the Political Declaration of the Harare Summit adopted by consensus, is based on the text adopted at Delhi.

Soviet Proposal on the Verification of Military Activities from Air

1424. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE :
SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reports that U.S. Government has welcomed the Soviet proposal regarding the verification of military activities from air as a significant step towards a disarmament agreement between big powers;

(b) if so, what is Government's assessment of the prospects with regard to U.S. Soviet talks on disarmament including the aforesaid one; and

(c) what is Government's assessment as to how far that two big powers are now closer to an agreement on the disarmament issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) At their recent meeting at Reykjavik in Iceland the United States President and the Soviet General Secretary are reported to have been very close to an agreement on a package of arms limitation proposals. The United States and Soviet Governments are pursuing their exchanges and Government earnestly hope that these exchanges will lead to a comprehensive agreement.

Diplomatic Assignments for IAS Officers.

1425. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total numbers of IAS officers with their names and designations who have been given diplomatic assignments during the last three years;

(b) whether there is any fixed percentage and criteria for appointment of IAS officers as Ambassadors and for other diplomatic assignments; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The number of IAS officers who have been given diplomatic assignment during the last three years is sixteen. Their names and designations are enclosed. (*See* Statement below).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise, Sir.